

HOUSE BILL 2942

By McCormick

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to postsecondary financial assistance from net lottery proceeds rewarding exemplary civic learning and exemplary community and governmental projects.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902, is amended by adding the following language as new, appropriately designated subdivisions:

() "Academic requirement" means a requirement of a specified grade point average, ACT or SAT score or cumulative grade point average that determines either initial or continuing eligibility for postsecondary financial assistance from net lottery proceeds;

() "General Assembly civic education scholarship" means the scholarship funded from net lottery proceeds and awarded under § 49-4-938 to meet the goals of the general assembly to promote and encourage civic learning and participation in community and government by high school students;

() "Nonacademic requirement" means any scholarship eligibility requirement other than an academic requirement;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, is amended by adding the following language as a new section to be designated as follows:

§ 49-4-938.

(a) To be eligible for a General Assembly civic education scholarship a student shall:

(1) Not be ineligible for a scholarship under § 49-4-904;

(2) Meet all nonacademic requirements for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship as an entering freshman;

(3) Be selected under the process developed and adopted by the department of education for the award of the scholarship; and

(4) Be admitted to and enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution.

(b) The department of education shall develop and implement the General Assembly civic education scholarship program to promote and encourage civic learning and good citizenship throughout the state. The scholarship program each year shall recognize one (1) high school student in each senatorial district and one (1) high school student in each district of the house of representatives for an exemplary civics essay or a project that demonstrates exemplary community or governmental participation. The department, in consultation with the commission on civic education in Tennessee, shall set requirements, in addition to those in subsection (a), for students competing for such scholarships as the department determines to be reasonable. The department shall provide opportunities for the members of the senate and the house of representatives to participate in the publication of the scholarship program, encouragement of high school students to participate in civic learning and to develop and execute civic projects meeting the requirements of scholarship program, determination of the recipients of the scholarships and in awards ceremonies for the scholarships. The department may enlist the help of secondary and postsecondary teachers, governmental officials, members of organizations encouraging civic learning, members of community organizations and other interested citizens in the development and execution of the scholarship program. The department shall annually notify each LEA of the program and its requirements for the receipt of a scholarship. Upon such notification, an LEA shall provide such notice to every high school and to all teachers of civic education in the system and shall request

that the local news media publicize the program. The Tennessee student assistance corporation shall provide information about the scholarship program to students on its web site and during College Goal Sunday.

(c) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the General Assembly and any provision of law relating to a shortfall in funds available for postsecondary financial assistance from the net proceeds of the state lottery, a General Assembly civic education scholarship shall be one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for full-time attendance for the 2009-2010 academic year. For academic years subsequent to the 2009-2010 academic year, the amount of such scholarship shall be determined in accordance with § 4-51-111 and shall be set in the general appropriations act.

(d) To continue to receive a General Assembly civic education scholarship, a student shall continue to meet all applicable nonacademic requirements for the Tennessee HOPE scholarship and shall maintain satisfactory progress in a course of study, in accordance with the standards and practices used for federal Title IV programs by the eligible postsecondary institution in which the student is enrolled.

(e) Receipt of a General Assembly civic education scholarship shall be subject to the limitations of § 49-4-913. Section 49-4-919 shall apply to students receiving a General Assembly civic education scholarship.

(f) A student shall receive the General Assembly civic education scholarship even though the student qualifies for no other postsecondary financial assistance from net lottery proceeds or in addition to any other postsecondary financial assistance from net lottery proceeds for which the student qualifies.

SECTION 3. The department of education shall develop the General Assembly civic education scholarship program provided for in this act for implementation and award of

scholarships for the 2009-2010 academic year. No scholarships shall be awarded under this act prior to the 2009-2010 academic year.

SECTION 4. Costs incurred by TSAC, THEC and the department of education in administering the scholarship created under this act, which provides financial assistance to enable citizens of this state to attend postsecondary educational institutions, shall be funded from the lottery for education account as part of such program.

SECTION 5. The provisions of this act shall not be construed to be an appropriation of funds and no funds shall be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless such funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.